

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings include changes to Figure 2. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figure 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 11 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1-8, 10 and 12 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 12 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have included new FIG. 2 to correct the typographical error in the numbering. With respect to the Examiner's allegation that the figures fail to show the limitations of the Claim 10, Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to paragraph 36, FIG. 6. Clearly, the claimed feature is disclosed and shown in the drawings.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the typographical errors. Also, Applicants have amended the specification to include the rotational abutments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his objections to the claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, alleging that they fail to comply with the enabling requirement.

The undersigned would like to draw the Examiner's attention to FIG. 2 wherein element 21 (driving member) is supported on the connection plate 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his §112 rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, alleging them to be indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended several of the claims to correct the typographical errors. Accordingly, Applicants believe the claims to be in proper order and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his §112, second paragraph rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walterscheid (GB 978,027). The Examiner alleges that the '027 patent anticipates Applicants' invention.

Independent Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to further define the driving member including rotational abutments which can be brought into abutment with the first driving element for a torque transmission around a longitudinal axis after the driving member has passed through a predetermined torque free rotational movement. The driving member is rotationally supported around the longitudinal axis on the connection plate or in a component connected to the connection plate.

The '027 reference fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. The '027 reference illustrates that the bolts 8 are tightened against the spring washers compressing the flanges against one another to provide additional friction dampening and to prevent any rattling and deflection of the components. Accordingly, in use, once tightened, there is no torque free rotational motion. Thus, the driving member does not pass through a predetermined torque free rotational motion as claimed. Accordingly, the '027 reference

fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. Accordingly, the '027 reference would fail to anticipate Applicants' invention. Thus, independent Claims 1 and 12 are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2-8 and 10, which depend from Claim 1, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jennings (U.S. Patent No. 4,464,137).

As defined above, Applicants' claims define the driving member being brought into abutment with the first driving elements for torque transmission around a longitudinal axis after the driving member has passed through a predetermined torque free rotational motion. The driving member is rotationally supported around the longitudinal axis on the connection plate or on a component connected to the connection plate.

The Examiner defines the Jennings reference to have a connection plate 26 with stops 50. The input shaft 22 is provided with lugs 55 abutting the stops. This is unlike Applicants' claims. Applicants claim that the driving member is rotationally supported around the axis on the connection plate or on a component connected to the connection plate. In the Jennings reference, this means that the input shaft of the clutch mechanism 20 would need to be supported on the first plate 26. As can be seen from the Jennings reference, this is not the case. Jennings illustrate the driving member 47 supported on the collar portion of the output shaft. Clearly, Jennings would not anticipate, disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Applicants believe independent Claims 1 and 12 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the

Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2-9 and 10, which depend from Claim 1, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miller (U.S. Patent No. 3,003,340). The Examiner alleges that Miller anticipates Applicants' invention. As mentioned above, independent Claims 1 and 12 illustrate the driving member passing through a predetermined torque free rotational motion with the driving member rotational supported around the longitudinal axis on the connecting plate or on a component connected to the connection plate.

The Miller reference requires the fastening means to be securely tightened, thus affixing the coupling in a proper position for operation. See, column 4, lines 50-53. Thus, once the bolts 90 are tightened, the coupling parts do not move with respect to one another. Accordingly, the driving member does not pass through a predetermined torque free rotational motion as claimed. Accordingly, Miller fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. Further, Miller fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Thus, Applicants believes independent Claims 1 and 12 to be patentably distinct over the Miller reference. Likewise, Claims 2-9 and 10 which depend from Claim 1 are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Landrum (U.S. Patent No. 3,050,965). The Examiner alleges that Landrum discloses Applicants' invention.

As mentioned above, independent Claims 1 and 12 disclose the driving member passing through a predetermined torque free rotational motion. The Landrum reference illustrates a resilient connection between the driving and driven parts. Thus, ramps are

provided between which the balls are held. The parts are biased so that under torque, the bias continues to increase. Thus, there is no torque free rotational movement possible between the parts. Accordingly, Landrum fails to anticipate Applicants' claims. Likewise, Landrum fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed features. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 1 and 12 as well as dependent Claims 2-9 and 10 to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being patentable over Landrum in view of Yabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,743,105). The Examiner alleges that this combination would disclose Applicants' invention.

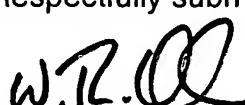
As mentioned above, the Landrum reference fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. The Yabe reference fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Landrum reference. Accordingly, the combination of Landrum and Yabe fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 2, 3, 5, and 8 to be patentably distinguishable over the Examiner's combination.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the

Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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